

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bolster for elevating a portion of the body to alleviate pooling of internal fluids, said bolster comprising a folding frame having three members, a first member having a free end and an opposite end, said opposite end including a first cooperating portion of a hinge, a center member having two ends, said center member having a second cooperating portion of a hinge affixed to one end, said first and second cooperating portions of said hinge pivotally connected, a pivoting joint attached to the second end of said center member, and a base member having a free end and a connected end, said connected end attached to said pivoting joint, a ratchet device attached to said base member between said free end and said connected end, said ratchet device having multiple detents, said free end of said first member engaging a detent of said multiple detents thereby forming a triangular frame having adjustable elevation and angle of said center member.

2. A bolster of claim 1 wherein a cover is attached to said center member between said two ends, said cover formed of a non-slip material, said cover adapted to support a portion of the body in an elevated position.

3. A folding bolster for elevating a portion of the body to alleviate pooling of internal fluids, said bolster comprising a folding frame having three members, a first member having a free end and an opposite end, said opposite end including a first cooperating portion of a hinge, a center member having two ends, said center member having a second cooperating portion of

1 a hinge affixed to one end, said first and second cooperating portions of said hinge pivotally
2 connected, said first member and said center member being in parallel relationship, a
3 pivoting joint attached to the second end of said center member, and a base member having a
4 free end and a connected end, said connected end attached to said pivoting joint, said center
5 member and said base member being in parallel relationship, a ratchet device attached to
6 said base member between said free end and said connected end, said ratchet device having
7 multiple detents, whereby said free end of said first member is adapted to engage a detent of
8 said multiple detents thereby forming a triangular frame having adjustable elevation and
9 angle of said center member.

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11 4. A bolster of claim 3 wherein a cover is attached to said center member between said two
12 ends, said cover formed of a non-slip material, said cover adapted to support a portion of the
13 body in an elevated position.

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15 5. A method of improving circulation in a patient comprising the steps of providing
16 a) a folding bolster for elevating a portion of the body to alleviate pooling of internal fluids,
17 said bolster comprising a folding frame having three members, a first member having a free
18 end and an opposite end, said opposite end including a first cooperating portion of a hinge, a
19 center member having two ends, said center member having a second cooperating portion of
20 a hinge affixed to one end, said first and second cooperating portions of said hinge pivotally
21 connected, said first member and said center member being in parallel relationship, a
22 pivoting joint attached to the second end of said center member, and a base member having a

1 free end and a connected end, said connected end attached to said pivoting joint, said center
2 member and said base member being in parallel relationship, a ratchet device attached to
3 said base member between said free end and said connected end, said ratchet device having
4 multiple detents,

5 b) folding said bolster by placing said base member on a supporting surface and pivoting
6 said first member to engage said free end in said ratchet device,

7 c) placing the patient on the supporting surface and moving said center member into contact
8 with a portion of the body,

9 d) adjusting said angle and elevation of said center member by selection of a particular
10 detent of said multiple detents, and

11 e) allowing said bolster to remain in place a period of time sufficient to reduce pooling.

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13 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said center member is placed in contact with the legs of
14 the patient and the legs are at a higher elevation than the heart.

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16 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said center member is placed in contact with the back of
17 the patient and the heart is higher than the legs.